Serial No. 10/076,253 Examiner: Anthony J. WEIER Docket No. 01-410-US

REMARKS

Claims 1-53 are pending in the application. Claims 30-53 have now been canceled. Claims 19-21 stand rejected.

The Examiner indicates that claims 1-18 are allowed and that claims 22-29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As suggested by the Examiner, Applicants have amended claim 19 to incorporate the subject matter of claims 20-22 and claims 20-22 have been canceled. Claim 23 has been amended to depend from claim 19. Applicants believe that claims 19 and 23-29 are now in condition for allowance.

Further, Applicants believe that all claims presently in the application, 1-19 and 23-29, are patentable and in condition for allowance.

Serial No. 10/076,253 Examiner: Anthony J. WEIER Docket No. 01-410-US

Favorable reconsideration of the application and an early notice of allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 20, 2004

Louis A. DePaul Reg. No. 28,407

REED SMITH LLP P.O. Box 488 Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0488 (412) 288-3054

Attorney for Applicants